

EPA Assessing Exposure Models

Elizabeth Allen to: Sheila Fleming, Scott Downey, Chad Schulze, Erin Halbert, Kay Morrison, Alan Henning, Jed Januch, DonaldM Brown, Raymond Wu

09/28/2011 07:18 AM

Cc: Jill Bloom

From InsideEPA. I don't know what to make of the second sentence... -Elizabeth

EPA officials say they may review their existing models to determine whether they adequately consider exposures to pesticide spray drift in areas with varied topography, in response to a petition from an Oregon citizen group.

However, EPA officials say they are unlikely to craft any new measures to limit drift in response to a separate petition from farmworker and environmental groups seeking to limit children's exposures.

Jill Bloom of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs told a Sept. 19 meeting of the State Federal Insecticide, Fungicide & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Issues Research & Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Working Committee that the agency is preparing to respond to a pair of petitions seeking to limit exposure to spray drift.

One petition, filed by Earthjustice and Farmworker Justice in October 2009, calls on EPA to conduct studies on all registered pesticides in order to better understand their potential for drift and to issue measures to protect children from exposure.

The petition also called for buffer zones for organophosphates and n-methyl carbamates to be immediately implemented in areas where children congregate, such as schools, playgrounds, parks and homes. The buffers should be 60 feet for ground application and 300 feet for aerial application, the petition says.

Another petition, filed by self-described "forest dwellers" Pesticide Poisoning Victims United -- a division of a forest preservation group known as the Pitchfork Rebellion -- calls for EPA to conduct "an unbiased study" of what an appropriate spray buffer zone for the conditions found in forest areas in Oregon.

The petition also calls for an interim one-mile buffer zone to be implemented until that study is complete and for the agency to conduct an investigation of the "significance of the influence of Big Business on the US EPA over the history of the US EPA prior to the beginning of the Obama Administration" with "a special look at how that influence has impacted the laws and policies that have resulted in current aerial spray practices" in Oregon.

Bloom said the agency is preparing to reply to the Farmworker Justice petition early next year and then to the Pitchfork Rebellion petition sometime later. Bloom said the agency's reply to the Farmworker Justice petition would likely consist of an explanation of the ongoing efforts EPA is undertaking to study spray drift.

"We expect to respond to that early next year," Bloom said. "It will primarily discuss the initiatives we have ongoing in the Office of Pesticide Programs that relate to these concerns to assessing drift on a case-by-case basis and assessing the risk associated with drift to kids and the general population



Re: EPA Assessing Exposure Models

Jill Bloom to: Elizabeth Allen

09/28/2011 07:55 AM

Alan Henning, Chad Schulze, DonaldM Brown, Erin Halbert, Jed
Cc: Januch, Kay Morrison, Raymond Wu, Scott Downey, Sheila Fleming,
Richard Keigwin, Mary Manibusan

I would say the phrase

[the response to the petition] will primarily discuss the initiatives we have ongoing in the Office of Pesticide Programs that relate to these concerns to assessing drift on a case-by-case basis and assessing the risk associated with drift to kids and the general population

would be a better characterization of what I said, and also that drift risk and mitigation as necessary will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis (no one-size-fits-all buffers, for example).

Jill

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Elizabeth Allen

From InsideEPA. I don't know what to make of t...

09/28/2011 10:18:11 AM

From: Elizabeth Allen/R10/USEPA/US
To: Sheila Fleming/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Scott Downey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Chad Schulze/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Erin Halbert/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Kay Morrison/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Alan Henning/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Jed Januch/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, DonaldM Brown/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Raymond Wu/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jill Bloom/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 09/28/2011 10:18 AM
Subject: EPA Assessing Exposure Models

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